

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION

September 1, 2021

8:30 a.m. – Peoria, Illinois

MEETING WAS HELD ELECTRONICALLY - ZOOM

ROLL CALL

The Board of Fire & Police Commission meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Lynn Pearson.

Commissioners present: Lynn Pearson, Tom Burke, William Spears, William Watkins, John Williams, and Crystal Gothard

Commissioners Absent: Leonard Unes

Others present: Affirmative Employment Specialist Debra Bush, Police Captain Scott Cook, Fire Chief James Bachman, and Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

William Watkins motioned to receive and file the minutes of Regular Meeting August 4, 2021 as presented; seconded by Tom Burke; all approved 6-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. **Recognition Day Letters** – Police Officers Jacob Beck and Aaron Watkins

B. **Request to Promote** – Request to promote Fire Captain Thomas Sanders to Fire Battalion Chief effective June 4, 2021 due to the retirement of Division Chief of Prevention Stanley Taylor

Tom Burke motioned to receive, and file communication A and B as presented; seconded by William Watkins; all approved 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Fire Chief Bachman stated that they are still trying to get a new entry level Firefighter test in place to get a new list of candidates to hire.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that the Firefighter Recruit graduation was postponed due to positive COVID tests.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that they will be attending Western Illinois University and Northern Illinois University job fairs.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that they had been teaching Fire Science at Woodruff, but the students had been dwindling down. Fire Captains Bobby Anderson, Tony Cummings and Thomas Stimeling are trying to get this process going again by laying out the template of the process.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that they would be going into the schools about once a month and talking about Fire Science and the opportunities with the City of Peoria.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that they are slated for next year to build onto the Fire Academy with a Morton style building to do CPAT testing instead of having to rent out other facilities. Other agencies will be able to rent out the space also.

Police Captain Cook stated that they are at 198 and working up to getting to strength. The new Police Chief has some new ideas to help in the department.

Police Captain Cook stated that there 36 in the current pool and the Police Department will be scheduling department interviews soon.

Police Captain Cook stated that they have 15 Police Recruits in the program right now and there are some other Recruits that should be coming out of the program soon.

Police Captain Cook stated that they are scheduled to attend three recruiting events for September.

Police Captain Cook stated that the Police Chief Eric Echevarria has an extensive background in recruiting and the Resident Officer Program, and he has some great ideas going forward for recruitment.

Police Captain Cook stated that they have five Police Recruit candidates starting in September.

Police Captain Cook stated that they have 10 slots scheduled for each of the three Police Academy classes next year.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

William Watkins moved to adjourn to Executive Session under 2c (1) of the Open Meetings Acts, seconded by Tom Burke; all approved 6-0.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

Lynn Pearson stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the minutes of Executive Session July 7, 2021 and they are okay to be released and the Executive Session August 4, 2021 are not to be released.

William Spears moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of July 7, 2021 that are okay to be released, seconded by William Watkins; all approved 6-0.

John Williams moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of August 4, 2021, that are not to be released, seconded by Tom Burke; all approved 6-0.

Lynn Pearson stated that while in executive session they reviewed the Police Recruit August 2021 Eligibility List and it will be approved as presented.

William Spears moved to approve the Police Recruit August 2021 Eligibility List as presented, seconded by William Watkins; all approved 6-0.

Debra Bush talked about the Fire and Police Commission Summary of Activities from January 2021 to August 2021 that was requested from all Commissions from Councilmember John Kelly.

Lynn Pearson asked if there were any question or changes to the documents. There were no changes and everyone on the Commission was satisfied with the report back to the City Council.

Debra Bush asked the Commission and City staff to destroy the information that was sent for the meeting or they could get it back to her and she would take care of getting it shredded.

ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, William Watkins moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Crystal Gothard; all approved 6-0.

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Affirmative Employment Specialist

APPROVED:

Lynn Pearson, Vice Chairperson

John Williams, Member

Thomas Burke, Secretary

Crystal Gothard, Member

William Spears, Member

William Watkins, Member